

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11827 211334Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 ACDA-05 /069 W

----- 109073

R 211255Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8075

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 11827

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT SPEAKS OUT ON MINBARS

REF: CAIRO 11214

1. ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE CONVENED AS SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 20 TO DISCUSS PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF POLITICAL GROUPINGS (MINBARS), WHOSE PROLIFERATION HAS BECOME LUDICROUS. AHRAM TODAY LISTS 29 OF THEM, THROUGH THIS LIST INCLUDES ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE FORMALLY NOTIFIED ASU OF INTENTION TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN GROUP. OUR TALLY OF MINBARS ACTUALLY ESTABLISHED IS 14. TWO ADDITIONS TO LIST OF 12 IN REFTEL ARE "NATIONAL FORUM OF EGYPT", ANNOUNCED BY MEDICAL COUNCIL MEMBER TABBALA, AND "PIONEERS GROUPS", ESTABLISHED BY AZHAR STUDENTS.

2. WITH SUBJECT OF MINBARS BEING CORRECTLY DESCRIBED NOW IN PRESS AS "FARCE" AND "COMEDY", IT WAS CLEAR ASU HEAD MAHGUB INTENDED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING AS FORUM IN WHICH IN CURB FORMATION OF MORE GROUPS AND TO LAY DOWN RULES INTENDED TO PREVENT THOSE GROUPS ALREADY ESTABLISHED FROM OPERATING LIKE POLITICAL PARTIES. ON LATTER POINT, FOR EXAMPLE, MAHGUB HAS ALREADY CONTRADICTED PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBER ABU WAFIYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11827 211334Z

PUBLICLY; MAHGUB SAID GROUPINGS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED HAVE

OFFICE THROUGHOUT EGYPT NOR WOULD THERE BE "NEWSLETTERS."
ABU WAFIYA GAVE IN WITH A GOOD GRACE, ABANDONING HIS
AMBITIOUS PLANS SET UP SUB-OFFICES AND RECRUITMENT CENTERS
FROM MATRUH TO ASWAN.

3. ALL MINBARS WERE ESTABLISHED DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S
ABSENCE FROM EGYPT LAST MONTH, AND HE WAS CONSEQUENTLY NOT
ON HAND TO PERSONALLY PUT THE DAMPER ON THE PROECESS. WITH
HINDSIGHT, THEREFORE, IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE
DECIDED, APPARENTLY AT LAST MOMENT, YESTERDAY EVENING TO
TAKE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING UNDER HIS PERSONAL CONTROL.
IN PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED ADDRESS, HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLED GROUP
THAT MINBAR ISSUE REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE DETAILED EXAMINATION
BEFORE IT IS PUT INTO PRACTICE. HE NOTED SOME PLATFORMS ARE
SIMPLY COPIED FROM 1962 NATIONAL CHARTER AND OTHERS READ LIKE
MANIFESTOES OF TRADITIONAL EGYPTIAN PARTIES. SINCE, IN
PRESIDENT'S VIEW, EGYPTIANS DO NOT WANT TO REINSTITUTE POLITICAL
PARTIES AND SINCE PLAGIARISMS FROM NATIONAL CHARTER HAVE NOT
RESULTED IN DISTINGUISHABLE PLATFORMS IN MANY CASES, DEMOCRACY
IS NOT WELL SERVED BY PRESENT EFFORTS OF MINBAR FOUNDERS.

4. WHAT IS NEEDED, IN SADAT'S VIEW, IS CLEAR DECISION FROM ASU,
BUT NOT A DECISION IMPOSED FROM THE TOP, ON THE ISSUE OF
MINBARS. IN A REMAKR WHICH WILL NOT MAKE IT EASY FOR THE
ASU TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT THE
REVOLUTION IS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE, NOT FOR ONE PARTY OR ONE
CATEGORY. SUMMARIZING THE HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY IN EGYPT FROM
1919 TO PRESENT, SADAT LAID STRESS ON THE NECESSITY TO
PROHIBIT THE GROWTH OF "CENTERS OF POWER," A REMARK WHICH WE
INTERPRET TO MEAN THAT MINBAR LEADERS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO
EMERGE AS POLITICAL POWERS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT, WHICH WAS CARRIED
LIVE ON TV, HAS EFFECTIVELY KILLED MINBAR IDEA FOR NOW.
ORIGINALLY GOE OFFICIALS HAD SPOKEN OF MINBARS AS GROUPS WHO
WOULD DEBATE POLICIES TO BE ADOPTED BY ASU. HOWEVER, NOW THAT
MAHGUB HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THESE GROPS ARE MERELY TO DEBATE
IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ASU POLICY (REFTEL),
THEIR MANDATE HAS CHANGED. PRESUMABLY SADAT WANTS TO BUILD
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES WHICH WILL HEDGE IN MINBAR ACTIVITY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 CAIRO 11827 211334Z

AND WHEN THAT TASK IS COMPLETED, MINBARS WILL BE PERMITTED TO
OPERATE, BUT NOT BEFORE.
EILTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL FREEDOM, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY FACTIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO11827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750406-0787
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751122/aaaaassn.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAIRO 11214
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT SPEAKS OUT ON MINBARS
TAGS: PINT, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006